

Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

12 June 1984

Executive Director

Executive Registry
84-2428/1

NOTE FOR: Fred Demech
Executive Director, PFIAB

FROM: Executive Assistant/Executive
Director

Here is the information you
requested on the Sprague Committee.

151

--

Attachment

STAT



Executive Registry

SECRET

84 - 2428

8 June 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director

FROM: Roberta Knapp
Deputy Chief, History Staff

SUBJECT: The Sprague Committee

1. The President's Committee on Information Activities Abroad, known as the Sprague Committee, was created on 2 December 1959. It was chaired by Mansfield Sprague, a private citizen from Connecticut. It had a mix of public and private members: Allen Dulles, George V. Allen, Gordon Gray, Livingston Merchant, C. D. Jackson, Philip Reed, Karl Harr, and John Irwin. Its function was to review the report of the (William H.) Jackson Committee of 1953 and evaluate the implementation of its recommendations; it also carried out a comprehensive survey of US informational and psychological programs abroad.

2. The Sprague Committee was one of several such study groups at the time. Others included the (Henry) Jackson Subcommittee on National Policy Machinery of the Senate Committee on Government Operations (1959) and the Joint Study Group on Foreign Intelligence Activities of the US Government (1960), set up by Allen Dulles and chaired by Lyman Kirkpatrick.

3. The Sprague Committee's classified report (ER-61-1635) was submitted to President Eisenhower on 23 December 1960, between the election and the inauguration.

4. The most controversial aspect was its strong endorsement of the Operations Coordinating Board, created in 1953 as a result of the Jackson study and chaired until mid-1960 by State. President Kennedy rejected this part of the report and abolished OCB on 18 February 1961.

STAT

SECRET

DCI
EXEC
REG

B-200